

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 ACDA-07

SSC-01 /095 W

-----010757Z 018375 /17

R 010647Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4509

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1818

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SU

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI RESHUFFLES CABINET

REF: KHARTOUM 1795

1. FOLLOWING INAUGURATION SPEECH PROMISES OF GOVERNMENT CHANGES (REFTTEL), NIMEIRI ANNOUNCED SERIES OF DECREES IN LAST FEW DAYS. THOUGH SOME INTERESTING CHANGES WERE MADE, ALMOST ALL MINISTERS RETAINED THEIR PORTFOLIOS. NIMEIRI, WHO SAID AT HIS INAUGURATION THAT HE WOULD REVIEW VICE PRESIDENTIAL POSITIONS, RENAMED ALL THREE VPS TO THEIR POSITIONS AND ALSO RENAMED RASHID TAHER AL-BAKR, WHO IS A VP, PRIME MINISTER. MOREOVER, BAKR HAS BEEN GIVEN ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN AREAS SUCH AS DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM HIS DOMAIN.

2. IN CABINET MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WERE ABOLITION MINISTRY PEOPLE'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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CREATION NEW MINISTRY ENERGY AND MINING AND SPLITTING MINISTRY TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS INTO TWO SEPARATE MINISTRIES. ALTHOUGH MINISTRY PEOPLE'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT ABOLISHED, MAMOUN AWAD ABU ZEID REMAINS IN CABINET AS MINISTER ENERGY AND MINING, MANSOUR KHALID REMAINS AS FONMIN BUT HE APPARENTLY IS NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION AT PRESIDENCY. THIS

TASK PROBABLY WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY BAH AL-DIN IDRIS WHO HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO FULL MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY. FOR FIRST TIME CHIEF OF NATIONAL SECURITY, MAJ. GEN (RTD) OMER MOHAMAD AL-TAYEB, WHO ONLY RECENTLY NAMED TO POST, IS LISTED AS FULL MINISTER. ALL PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS NOW HAVE MINISTERIAL RANK. TWO NEW MINISTERS OF STATE WERE NAMED AND SECOND WOMAN, UM SALAMA SAEED, JOINS CABINET AS DEPUTY MINISTER YOUTH AND SPORTS. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TO DEPARTMENT (AF/E) COMPLETE CABINET AND BIOS ON THREE NEW MEMBERS OF CABINET.

3. COMMENT: OUR FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT PM RASHID TAHER AL-BAKR HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED. MANSOUR KHALED SEEMS TO HAVE DROPPED A NOTCH WHILE BAH AL-DIN IDRIS HAS BEEN PROMOTED. IMPORTANCE CHIEF NATIONAL SECURITY INDICATED BY INCLUSION IN CABINET. OTHERWISE CHANGES WERE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN EXPECTED ON BASIS NIMEIRI SPEECH. THERE SPECULATION THAT OTHER CHANGES MAY BE PLANNED. ONE RUMOR IS THAT BAKR WILL BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL SSU WHILE PRESENT SYG, ABUL GASSEM IBRAHIM, WILL BECOME DEPUTY PM. NIMEIRI WOULD BE PRIME MINISTER. ON BASIS CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN LAST FEW DAYS SEEMS CLEAR NIMEIRI REMAINS IN FULL CONTROL OF SUDANGOV AND GENERAL POLICIES UNLIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY CHANGES.
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